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224, EAST 10TH ST., N.Y.

November, 1873.

CEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS : NIS SOLVENICAL GARDEN: : NIS SOLVENICAL GARDEN:

I send you, herewith, the proof of the Botanical Directory, purposed to be issued with, or as, the November No. of the Botanical Bulletin, and ask your kind assistance in making it as complete as possible. You will double the favor by returning it with your remarks as speedily as may be convenient.

As it is based on that published by the Essex Institute some years since, it is probable that there have been many changes.

Be so good as to mark with a cross those addresses which you know to be correct; with a query those whose title you doubt; to correct those which are wrong; and to add what you can.

It is desirable to embrace in this list all who are actively interested in any department of the science, embracing anatomists and physiologists as well as systematists; the students of fossil as well as of living plants; of Cryptogams as well as of Phenerogams; and likewise the artists who illustrate these subjects.

By complying with this request you will much oblige,

Yours truly,

WM. H. LEGGETT.

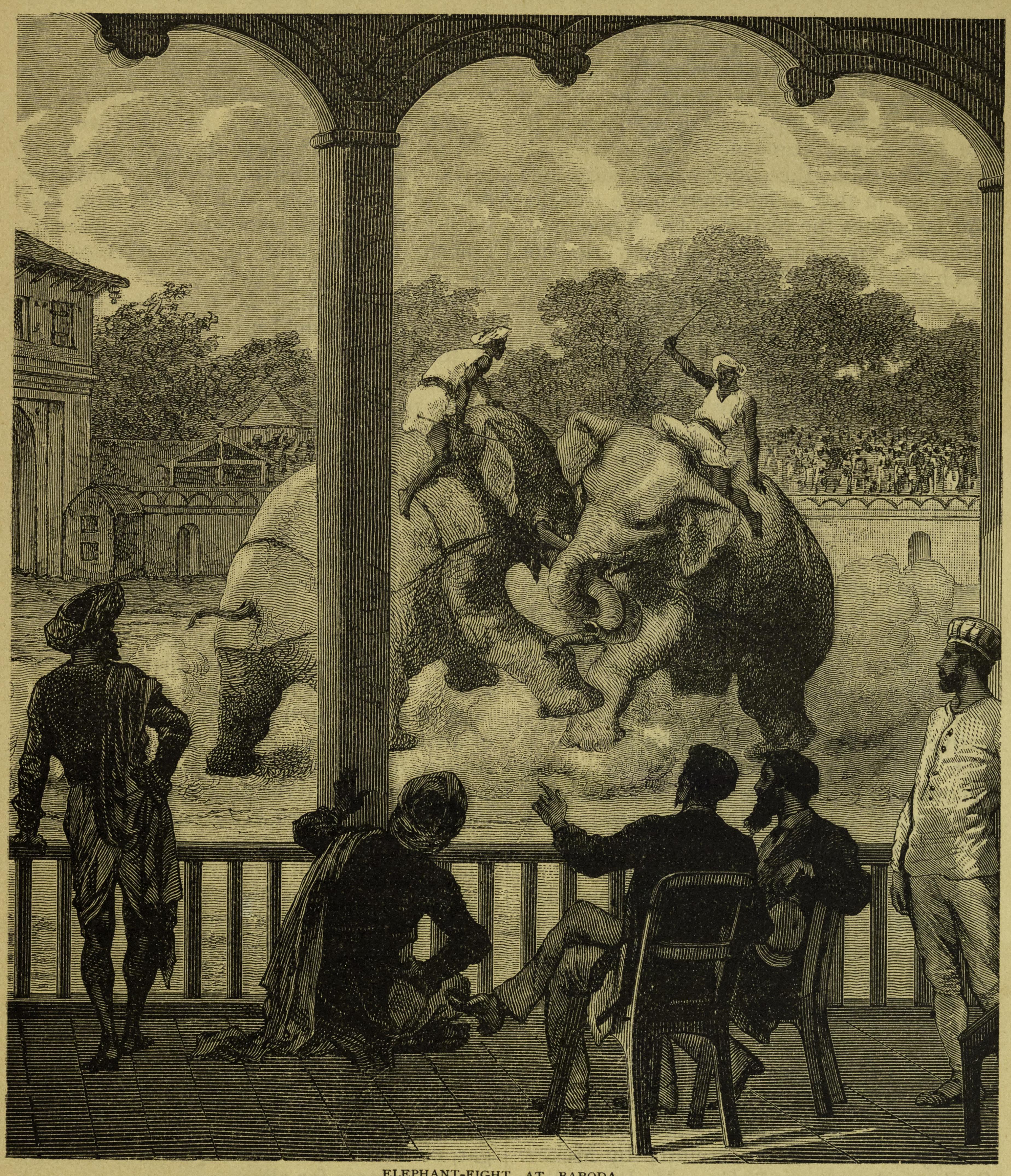
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INDIA AND ITS NATIVE PRINCES.



ELEPHANT-FIGHT AT BARODA.

INDIA is the land of ancient traditions, and the birthplace of languages and religions. According to the system of the Hindus, the present age of the world is divided into four grand periods, comprehending to the year 1875 a space of three million eight hundred and ninety-two thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine years. That "boastful Vol. XI.—5.

and turgid vanity" which Mr. Mills, the historian, tells us characterizes all Oriental nations, might as well have claimed double this number of years as the measure of Hindu antiquity, for one period could have been comprehended by the mind as easily as the other. On the other hand, philologists and students of mythology, or of the history of



religions, could have found a few hundred | he stopped at Lucknow, Benares and Patna, thousand years quite as ample as three or four millions to beget that obscurity, uncertainty, and contradiction which have afforded ample scope for the exploitation of all sorts of theories and for the construction of systems innumerable. Histories of India, which are rarely, if ever, read, burden the shelves of all libraries. But, if its chronology is to the last degree confusing, and, indeed, incomprehensible, the country itself surpasses all others in that which interests the traveler and fascinates the reader. The terms magnificence, grandeur, and splendor do not reach the limit of hyperbole without the prefix "Oriental," and India is the country, of all countries, which has given this adjective to the vocabulary. Its luxuriant forests and interminable jungles abound in the noblest game that ever falls before the sportsman's rifle. Accounts of travels through the country are therefore sure to be diversified with thrilling adventure. Its temples surpass those to be found in any other country, not only in number, but in colossal grandeur and exquisite delicacy of architecture; the antiquity of its ruins and their wonderful extent give the archæologist the widest scope for research; and its native princes, although shorn of much of their former glory, still live in a magnificent luxury, which revives the glories of the "Arabian Nights," and makes even those imaginative tales seem at least to be founded in fact. There is a marvelous fascination in accounts of this strange land, and when the narrative is rehearsed by an impressionable and enthusiastic Frenchman, whose imagination is keenly alive to the scenes through which he passed, and who has unusual skill in depicting with pen and pencil the wonders he witnesses, we have a book of travels not only interesting and valuable for the information it conveys, but which, in its external attractions, reaches the dignity of a work of art. Such a volume is that superb quarto, "India and its Native Princes: Travels in Central India in the Presidencies of Bombay and Bengal," by M. Louis Rousselet, just issued in this country by Messrs. Scribner, Armstrong & Co. M. Rousselet's journeys in India covered a period of between four and five years,—from 1864 to 1868. During this time he visited the extreme southern part of the peninsula, reaching Seringapatam and Outakamand, Hyderabad and tion of its merchants, but M. Rousselet re-Aurungabad. To the northward he visited Agra, Delhi, Meerut, and the mountainous region of Peshawur, meanwhile traveling extensively in the interior. Crossing the country, | crisis. The series of events which had this

thus reaching Calcutta, whence he visited all the points of interest in the adjacent country. Then going down the coast to Madras and Pondicherry, he made a short stay in Ceylon, and so returned home. This brief itinerary is sufficient to indicate the thoroughness with which M. Rousselet prosecuted his explorations. No other work of travels in this extremely interesting country gives so comprehensive a view of it, and none other sketches with such fidelity and sustained interest its wonderful ruins, its magnificent temples, and the characteristics of its people and their rulers.

Without following M. Rousselet step by step—for this would involve a reproduction of the volume itself—we shall present, with slight abridgment and disconnectedly, a few of his picturesque descriptions and instruct-

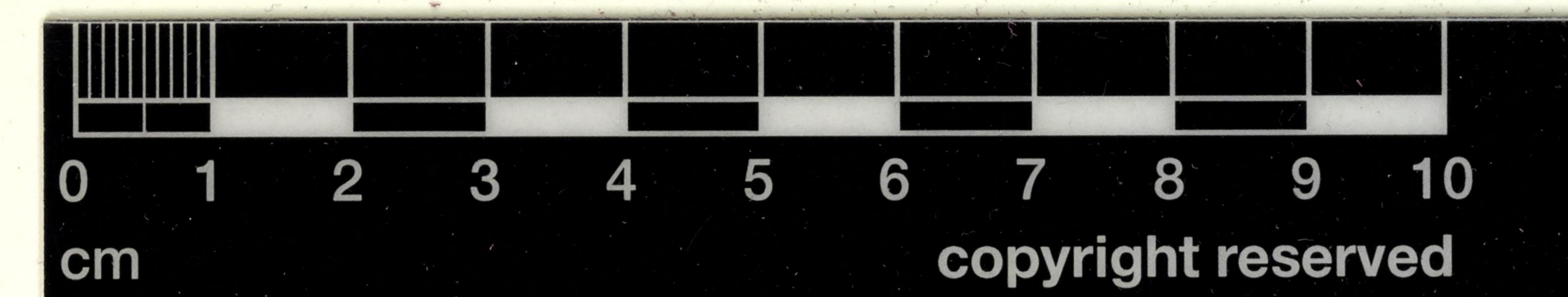
ive paragraphs.

Reaching Bombay in the midst of the rainy season—in July, 1864—our traveler was detained there until it should be practicable to penetrate the interior. But the two or three months spent in this active commercial city and its vicinity were industriously improved. A glance at the map will show that the island of Bombay forms part of an important group of islands, which, placed in front of the estuary of a river, appear to form a kind of delta. It is the port of arrival for all who come from Persia, from Arabia, from Affghanistan, and the coast of Africa; and from it the pilgrims from Hindustan, bound to Mecca, Karbala, or Nujiff, take their departure. Besides the indigenous races, which still present great variety, one meets the Persian with his high cap of Astrakhan; the Arab in his Biblical costume; the Tomale negro with fine, intelligent features; the Chinese, the Burmese, and the Malay. The corpulent Buniahs of Kutch or Goojerat, with their pyramids of muslin on their heads, raise their voices in rivalry with the natives of Cabul or Scinde; the Hindu fakir, naked and hideously painted, elbows the Portuguese priest in his sable robe, and the beggar, clad in tatters and repulsive in the extreme, clamors for alms.

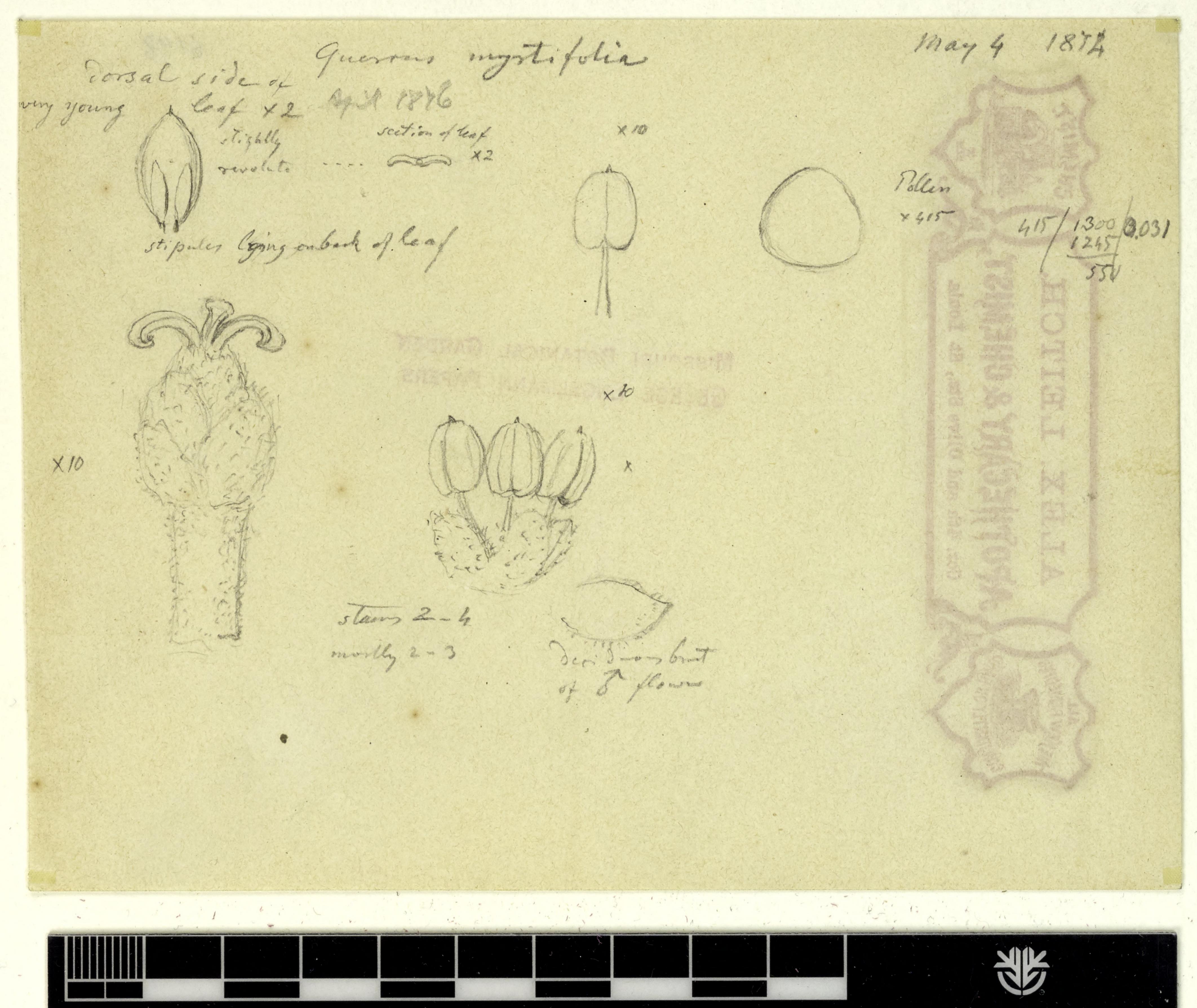
Bombay supplies the products of Europe to two-thirds of India. The trade of which it has legitimately the command, apparently ought to be sufficient to satisfy the ambiminds us of a time when they boldly grasped after more, and, failing, plunged the community into the disorders of a terrible

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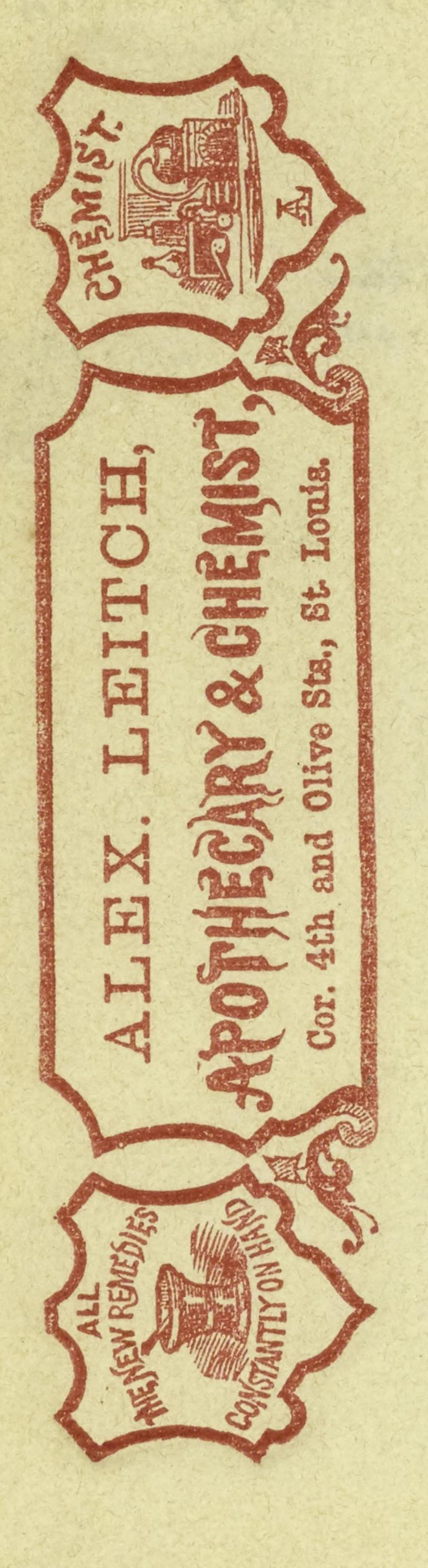






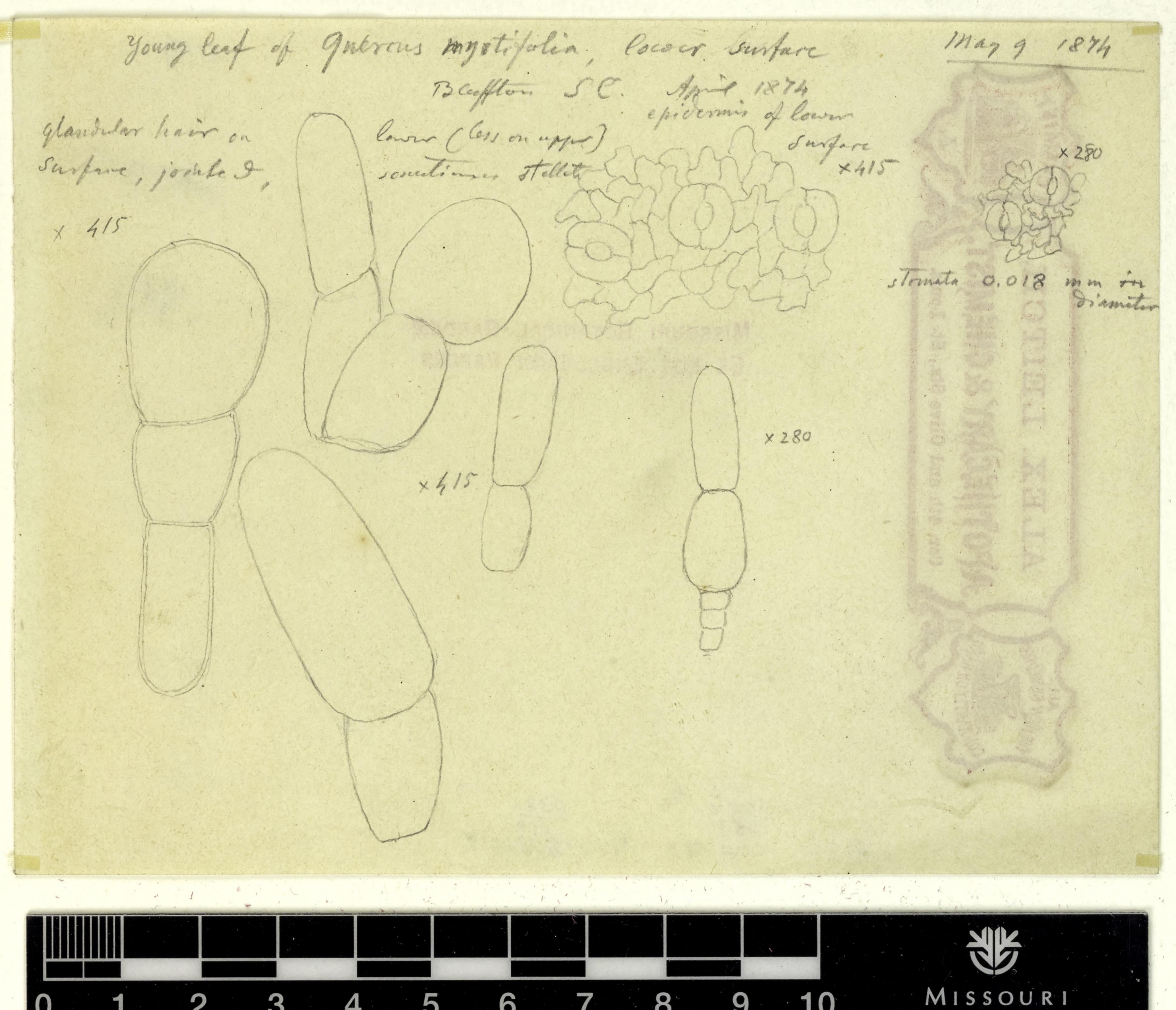






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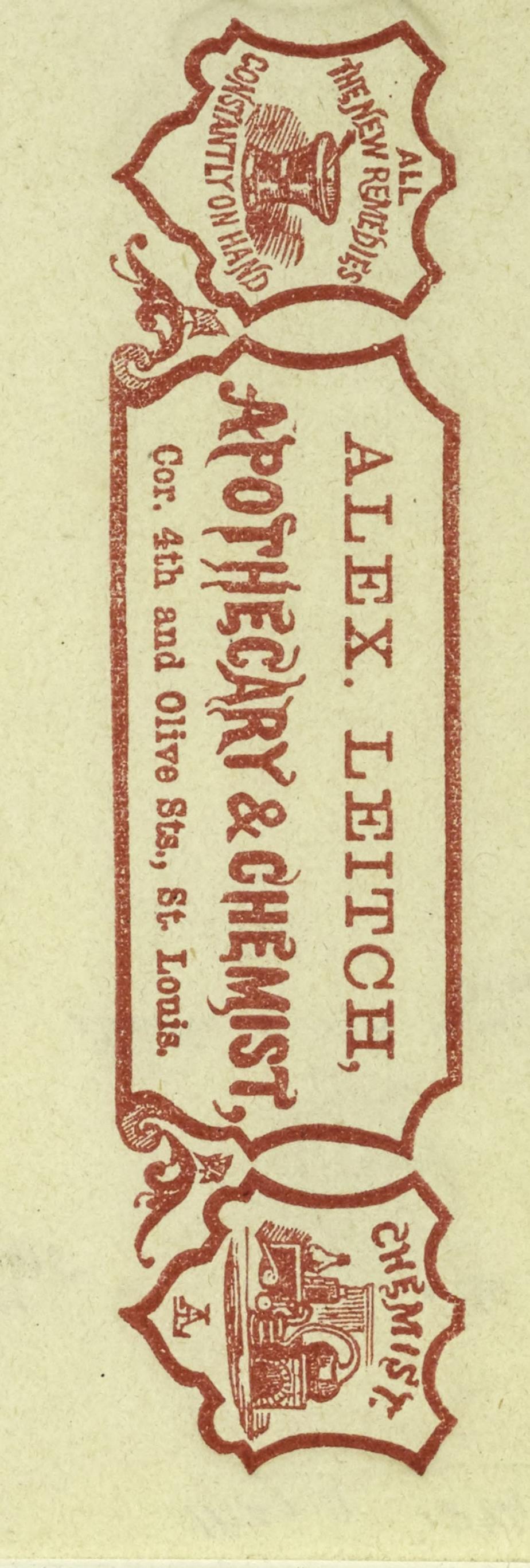




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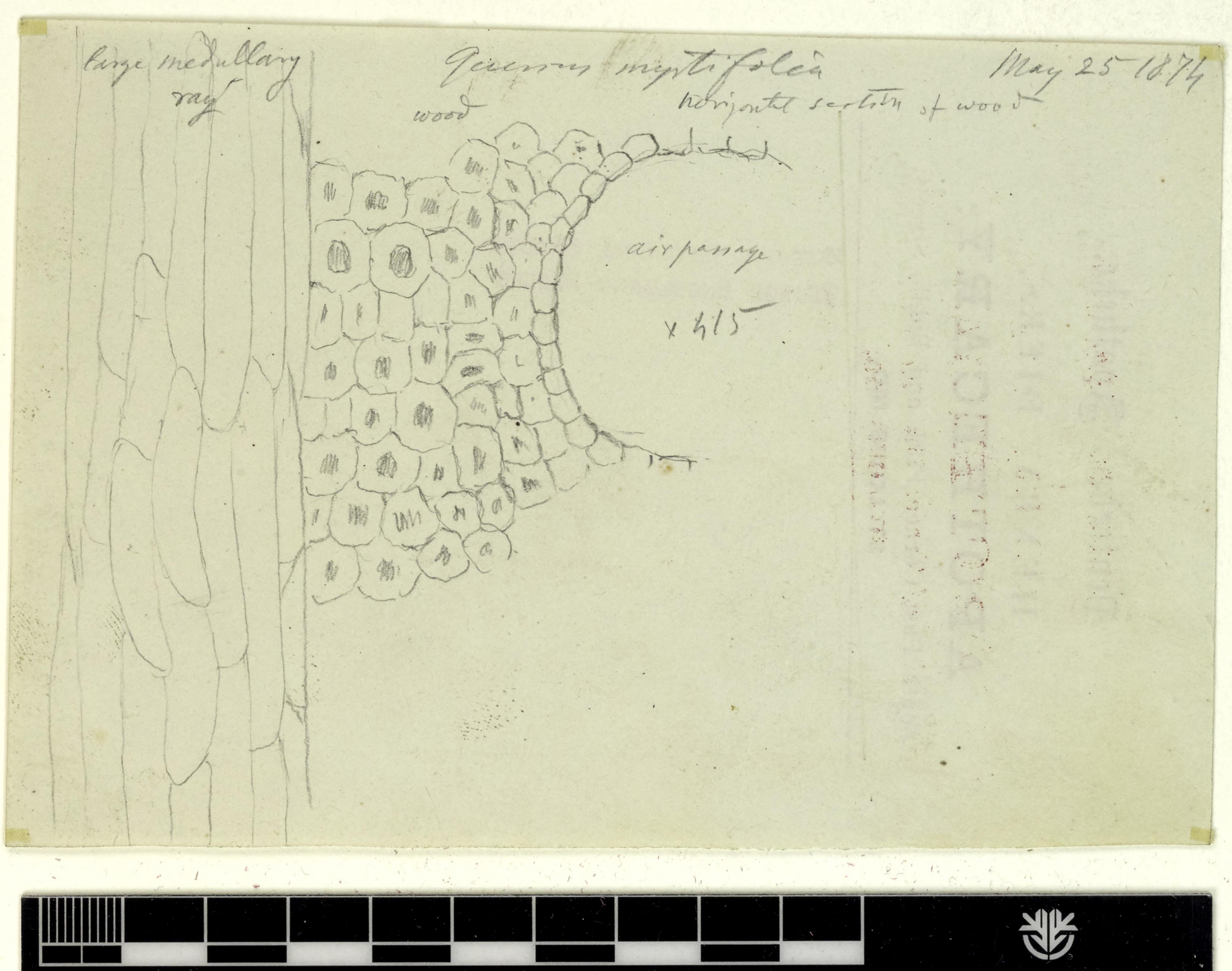
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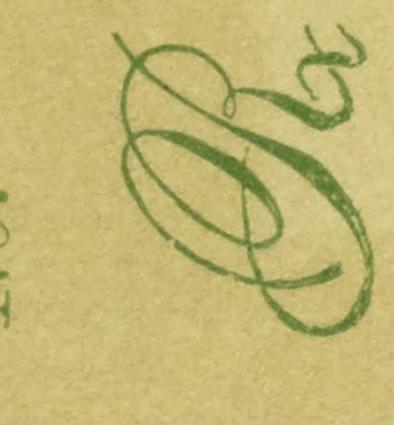
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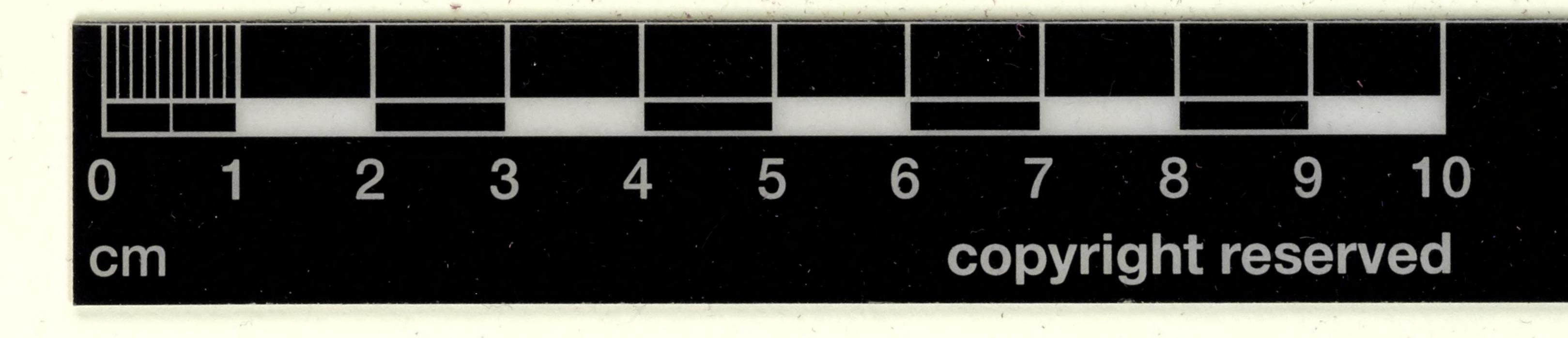
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partiality came from indifference. He had an opportunity to show his knowledge and his skill, and he delighted in it.

"What is your name, witness?" inquired

Mr. Balfour.

"Albert Timms, at your service."

"What is your calling, sir?"

"I have at present the charge of a department in the School of Mines. My specialties are chemistry and microscopy."

"You are specially acquainted with these

branches of natural science, then?"

"I am, sir."

"Have you been regarded as an expert in the detection of forgery?"

"I have been called as such in many cases

of the kind, sir."

"Then you have had a good deal of experience in such things, and in the various tests by which such matters are determined?"

"I have, sir."

"Have you examined the assignment and the autograph letters which have been in your hands during the recess of the court?"

"I have, sir."

- "Do you know either the plaintiff or the defendant in this case?"
- "I do not, sir. I never saw either of them until to-day."
- "Has any one told you about the nature of these papers, so as to prejudice your mind in regard to any of them?"

"No, sir. I have not exchanged a word

with any one in regard to them."

"What is your opinion of the two letters?" "That they are veritable autographs."

"How do you judge this?"

"From the harmony of the signatures with the text of the body of the letters, by the free and natural shaping and interflowing of the lines, and by a general impression of truthfulness which it is very difficult to communicate in words."

"What do you think of the signatures to

the assignment?"

"I think they are all counterfeits but one."

"Professor Timms, this is a serious matter. You should be very sure of the truth of a statement like this. You say you think they are counterfeits: why?"

"If the papers can be handed to me," said the witness, "I will show what leads me

to think so."

The papers were handed to him, and, placing the letters on the bar on which he had been leaning, he drew from his pocket | the same time, "I see a marked difference

who had no stake in the contest. His im- | a little rule, and laid it lengthwise along the signature of Nicholas Johnson. Having recorded the measurement, he next took the corresponding name on the assignment.

"I find the name of Nicholas Johnson of exactly the same length on the assignment that it occupies on the letter," said he.

"Is that a suspicious circumstance?"

"It is, and, moreover" (going on with his measurements), "there is not the slightest variation between the two signatures in the length of a letter. Indeed, to the naked eye, one signature is the counterpart of the other, in every characteristic."

"How do you determine, then, that it is

anything but a genuine signature?"

"The imitation is too nearly perfect."

"How can that be?"

"Well, no man writes his signature twice alike. There is not one chance in a million that he will do so, without definitely attempting to do so, and then he will be obliged to use certain appliances to guide him."

"Now, will you apply the same test to the

other signature?"

Professor Timms went carefully to work again with his measure. He examined the form of every letter in detail, and compared it with its twin, and declared, at the close of his examination, that he found the second name as close a counterfeit as the first.

"Both names on the assignment, then, are exact fac-similes of the names on the auto-

graph letters?" said Mr. Balfour.

"They are, indeed, sir—quite wonderful

reproductions." "The work must have been done, then,

by a very skillful man?" said Mr. Balfour.

The Professor shook his head pityingly. "Oh, no, sir," he said. "None but bunglers ever undertake a job like this. Here, sir, are two forged signatures. If one genuine signature, standing alone, has one chance in a million of being exactly like any previous signature of the writer, two standing together have not one chance in ten millions of being exact fac-similes of two others brought together by chance."

"How were these fac-similes produced?"

inquired Mr. Balfour.

"They could only have been produced by tracing first with a pencil, directly over the signature to be counterfeited."

"Well, this seems very reasonable, but

have you any further tests?"

"Under this magnifying glass," said the Professor, pushing along his examination at

between the signatures on the two papers, which is not apparent to the naked eye. The letters of the genuine autograph have smooth, unhesitating lines; those of the counterfeits present certain minute irregularities that are inseparable from painstaking and slow execution. Unless the Court and the jury are accustomed to the use of a glass, and to examinations of this particular character, they will hardly be able to see just what I describe, but I have an experiment which will convince them that I am right."

"Can you perform this experiment here,

and now?"

"I can, sir, provided the Court will permit me to establish the necessary conditions. I must darken the room, and as I notice that the windows are all furnished with shutters, the matter may be very quickly and easily accomplished."

"Will you describe the nature of your ex-

periment?"

"Well, sir, during the recess of the court I have had photographed upon glass all the signatures. These, with the aid of a solar microscope, I can project upon the wall beothers, probably, if the sun remains bright and strong, that I have not alluded to."

"The experiment will be permitted," said the Judge, "and the officers and the janitor will give the Professor all the assistance he

needs."

"Gradually, as the shutters were closed, the room grew dark, and the faces of Judge, jury, and the anxious-looking parties within the bar, grew weird and wan among the shadows. A strange silence and awe descended upon the crowd. The great sun in sun would not lie. A voice was to speak to them from a hundred millions of miles away —a hundred millions of miles near the realm toward which men looked when they dreamed of the Great White Throne.

They felt as a man might feel, were he conscious, in the darkness of the tomb, when waiting for the trump of the resurrection and the breaking of the everlasting day. Men heard their own hearts beat, like the tramp of trooping hosts; yet there was one man who was glad of the darkness. To him the judgment day had come; and the of the pen will be evident, as in the real closing shutters were the rocks that covered him. He could see and not be seen. He could behold his own shame and not be conscious that five hundred eyes were upon him.

All attention was turned to the single pair of shutters not entirely closed. Outside of these the Professor had established his heliostat, and then gradually, by the aid of drapery, he narrowed down the entrance of light to a little aperture where a single silver bar entered and pierced the darkness like a spear. Then this was closed by the insertion of his microscope, and, leaving his apparatus in the hands of an assistant, he felt his way back to his old position.

"May it please the Court, I am ready for

the experiment," he said.

"The witness will proceed," said the

Judge.

"There will soon appear upon the wall, above the heads of the jury," said Professor Timms, "the genuine signature of Nicholas Johnson, as it has been photographed from the autograph letter. I wish the Judge and jury to notice two things in this signature the cleanly cut edges of the letters, and the two lines of indentation produced by the two prongs of the pen in its down-stroke. They will also notice that, in the up-stroke of the pen, there is no evidence of indentahind the jury, immensely enlarged, so that | tion whatever. At the point where the upthe peculiarities I have described may be stroke begins, and the down-stroke ends, detected by every eye in the house, with the lines of indentation will come together and cease."

> As he spoke the last word, the name swept through the darkness over an unseen track and appeared upon the wall within a halo of amber light. All eyes saw it, and all found the characteristics that had been predicted. The Professor said not a word. There was not a whisper in the room. When a long minute had passed, the light was shut off.

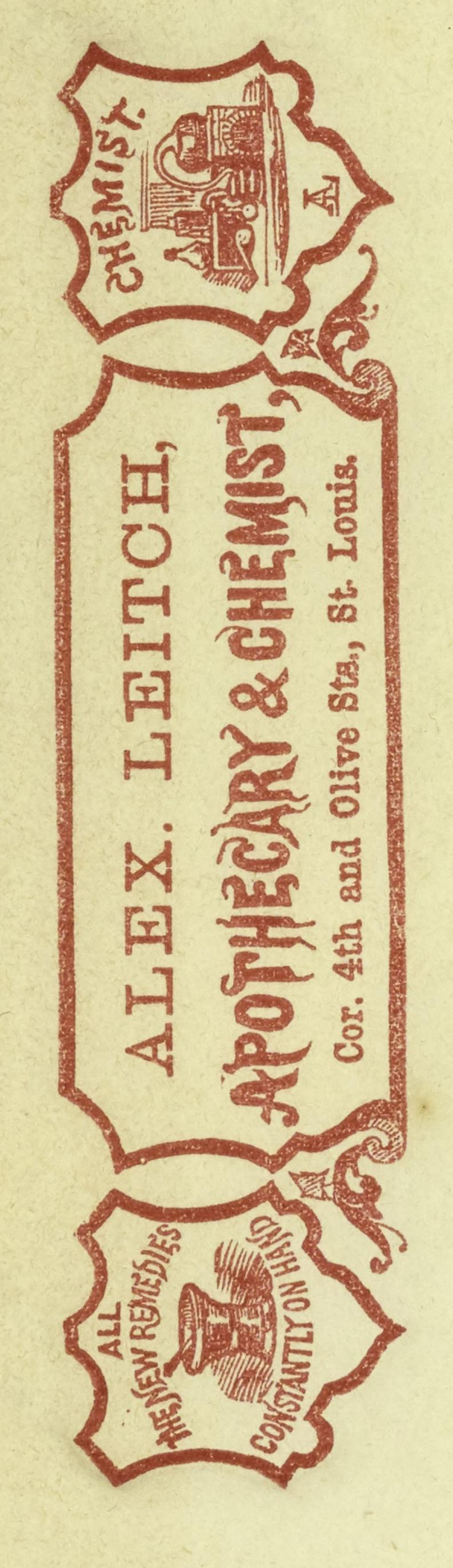
"Now," said the Professor, "I will show you in the same place the name of Nicholas heaven was summoned as a witness, and the Johnson as it has been photographed from the signatures to the assignment. What I wish you to notice particularly in this signature is, first, the rough and irregular edges of the lines which constitute the letters. They will be so much magnified as to present very much the appearance of a Virginia fence. Second, another peculiarity which ought to be shown in the experiment—one which has a decided bearing upon the character of the signature. If the light continues strong, you will be able to detect it. The lines of indentation made by the two prongs signature. I shall be disappointed if there does not also appear a third line, formed by the pencil which originally traced the letters, and this line will not only accompany, in an

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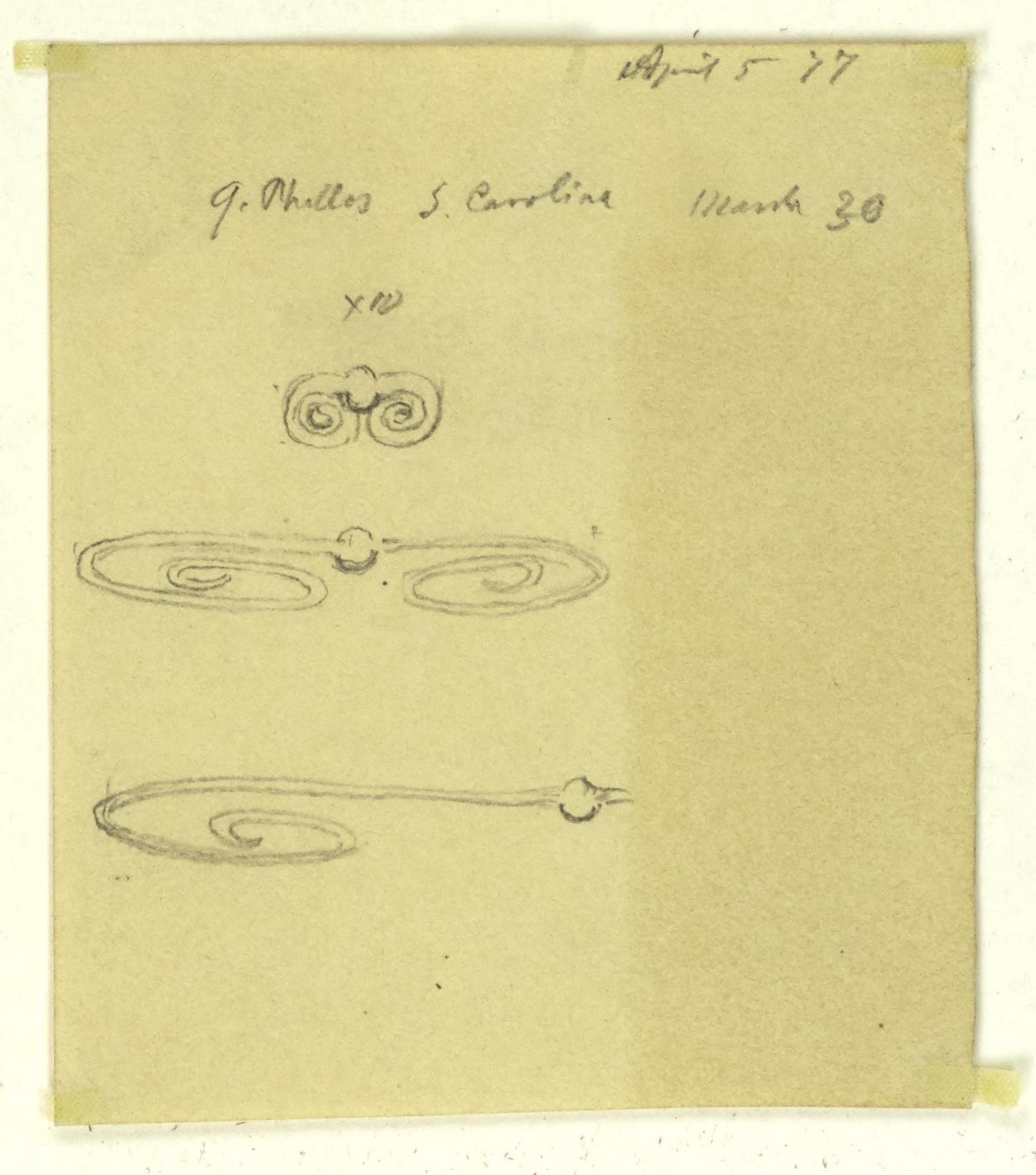
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